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Message Text

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64
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 H-01 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

IO-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00

USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01 IGA-01 /059 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, BE
SUBJECT: SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS/CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION

REF: A. STATE 012151
B. BRUSSELS 9221 (NOTAL)
C. BRUSSELS A-209

1. BELGIUM DOES NOT RECEIVE ASSISTANCE FROM NARCOTICS APPROPRIATIONS UNDER THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT. THEREFORE, SECTION A OF REF A IS INAPPLICABLE TO BRUSSELS (SEE REF C).

2. FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS IN RESPONSE REF A SECTION B:

A. SEVERAL MAJOR SEIZURES AT ZAVENTEM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN 1974 AND JANUARY 1975 HAVE POINTED UP INCREASING USE OF BELGIUM AS TRANSIT POINT FOR FAR EASTERN DRUG SHIPMENTS INTENDED FOR AMSTERDAM. FACTORS WHICH MAKE BELGIUM ATTRACTIVE ENTREPOT FOR BENELUX AREA CITED IN FISCAL YEAR 1975 PROGRAM GUIDANCE (REF B) STILL VALID. BELGIAN SENATE JUSTICE COMMISSION HAS ACTED ON NEW LAW TO TIGHTEN PENALITIES FOR DRUG TRAFFIC. LAW SHOULD BE PUT TO VOTE IN SENATE IN NEAR FUTURE. MEDIA HAVE GIVEN
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INCREASING PUBLICITY TO GROWING DRUG TRAFFIC PROBLEM

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IN BELGIUM AND HIGHLIGHTED SEIZURES AT ZAVENTEM. SOME
ATTENTION ALSO GIVEN TO NEED FOR STRONGER LAW. SOCIALIST PARTY
(PSB) BUREAU ALSO CALLED FOR QUICK ACTION ON LAW IN DECEMBER 1974.
THIS MAY HAVE HELPED SPURE SENATE ACTION. EMBASSY/DEA OFFICIALS
HAVE MADE AND ARE PURSING DISCREET CONTACTS WITH MINJUSTICE
OFFICIALS AND SENATOR RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS LEGISLATION TO EXPRESS
INTEREST IN ITS STATUS AND CHANCES FOR EARLY PASSAGE.
NEW GUIDELINES ON DEA COOPERATION WITH MINJUSTICE WERE DRAFTED
AND ISSUED BY ATTORNEY GENERAL (PROCURER GENERAL) IN COOPERATION
WITH EMBASSY AND DEA OFFICIALS. THESE GUIDELINES HAVE ENCHANCED
DEA COOPERATION WITH MINJUSTICE OFFICIALS AND IMPROVED COORDINATION
AMONG VARIOUS AGENCIES INVOLVED IN DRUG ENFORCEMENT IN BELGIUM.

B. CURRENT DATA ON DRUG ABUSE IS NOT PRESENTLY AVAILABLE.
INFO HAS BEEN REQUESTED FROM MINHEALTH OFFICIALS. CURRENT
ESTIMATES INDICATE DRUG USE IN BELGIUM HAS NOT INCREASED SIGN-
IFICANTLY IN PAST YEAR AND IS STILL LOW COMPARED TO NEIGHBORING
COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, BELGIANS ARE CONCERNED THAT AVAILABILITY OF
DRUGS IN HOLLAND COULD LEAD TO GREATER CONSUMPTION IN BELGIUM.
(BORDER BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES IS NOT CONTROLLED BY CUSTOMS AND
POLICE OFFICIALS UNDER BENELUX AGREEMENT).

C. THERE IS NO KNOWN PRODUCTION OF PROCESSING OF DRUGS
IN BELGIUM AT THIS TIME.

D. TREND IN TRAFFICKING AS EVIDENCED BY RECENT SEIZURES
IS USE OF FAR EASTERN COURRIERS, (ASIAN AND CAUCASIAN) INDIVIDUALLY
OR TRAVELING IN GROUPS, ARRIVING BY AIR AND MOVING TO
DESTINATION BY LAND TRANSPORTATION (RAIL AND CAR) THROUGH BELGIUM.
MOVEMENT THROUGH PORT OR ANTWERP REMAINS UNPROVEN AS THERE HAVE
BEEN NO SEIZURES THERE IN PAST YEAR.

E. AT TECHNICAL LEVEL, BELGIANS INCREASINGLY INVOLVED IN
COOPERATION ON MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL BASIS. HIGHER LEVEL
COORDINATION OR COOPERATION CURRENTLY CONFINED TO NORMAL
INTERPOL CHANNEL. RECENT DEA SPONSORED VISIT BY BRUSSELS DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY (SUBSTITUTE DE PROCURER DE ROI)
CHAARGED WITH NARCOTICS AFFAIRS AND COMMANDER OF GENDARMERIE
NARCOTICS UNIT TO MARSEILLES FOR ORIENTATION ON DRUG ENFORCE-
MENT THERE HAS POINTED UP TO THESE OFFICIALS NEED FOR
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EUROPEAN COOPERATION AND VALUE OF DEA ASSISTANCE IN PROMOTING
COOPERATION IN FIGHTING INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC.

F. EMBASSY AND DEA HAVE ENGAGED IN DEMARCHES ON LEGISLATION
AS NOTED IN PARA A AND ON COOPERATION WITH MINJUSTICE ON GUIDE-
LINES VISIT BY ADMINISTRATOR BARTELS AND OTHER DEA OFFICIALS IN
SEPTEMBER 1974 MOT USEFUL IN PROMOTING HIGH LEVEL INTEREST
ANDUNDERSTANDING OF INTERNATIONAL DRUG PROBLEM. TWO OFFICIALS

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OF JUDICIAL POLICE HAVE JUST RECEIVED TRAINING IN US AT DEA INSTITUTE. RECENT VISIT TO MARSEILLES UNDER DEA AUSPICES NOTED PARA E HAS CONTRIBUTED TO FURTHER COOPERATION ON DRUG ENFORCEMENT.

G. FOLLOWING ARE INCOMPLETE FIGURES OF SEIZURES MADE IN 1974 BASED ON EMBASSY/DEA FILES. BELGIAN FIGURES NOT YET AVAILABLE BUT HAVE BEEN REQUESTED:
HEROIN: 6 KILOS 300 GRAMS
COCAINE: 2 KILOS
MORPHINE BASE: 2 KILOS 800 GRAMS
OPIUM: 5 KILOS
HASHISH: 485 KILOS
HASHISH OIL: 4 1/2 LITRES
MARIJUANA: 18 KILOS
BANGI: 75 KILOS
LSD: 153 DOSAGE UNITS

IN JANUARY 1975 APPROXIMATELY 30 KILOS OF HEROIN WERE SEIZED AT ZAVENTEM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. ALL HEROIN SEIZURES HAVE BEEN AS RESULT OF CLOSE SURVEILLANCE OF SUSPECT TRAVELERS ON DEA ADVICE. COCAINE SEIZURE WAS MADE AS RESULT OF DEA OPERATION.

H. DOES NOT APPLY HERE.

I. SINCE BELGIUM DOES NOT HAVE IMPORTANT DRUG PROBLEM, LITTLE ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO REHABILITATION AND ECUCATION. THERE ARE NO US FINANCED PROJECTS IN THIS AREA. A DRAFT LAW IS UNDER STUDY IN THE SENATE JUSTICE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE MEDICAL SERVICES FOR DRUG OFFENDERS. ITS PASSAGE WILL DEPEND IN LARGE PART ON THE ABILITY AND DESIRE OF THE GOVERNMENT TO FINANCE THESE SERVICES. AT PRESENT GIVEN THE LIMITED PROBLEM HERE THERE IS LITTLE SUPPORT FOR THIS LEGISLATION. BELGIAN DRUG
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ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS, DEA AND THE EMBASSY ARE MORE CONCERNED WITH EARLY PASSAGE OF THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ACT CITED IN PARA B.
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